

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1554 – SB 1565

January 26, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Education (DOE), based on the results of an online verification test, to allow Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests to be administered in a computerized format in the 2020-2021 year and subsequent school years. Authorizes a local board of education to administer TCAP tests in paper format if the Commissioner of DOE authorizes TCAP tests to be administered in a computerized format. Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to notify DOE by September 1 of each year if the LEA has chosen to administer TCAP tests for the current year in a paper format. Requires DOE to provide TCAP materials in a paper format to each LEA choosing to administer TCAP tests in a paper format.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – Due to a number of unknown factors, an exact fiscal impact cannot be quantified. The proposed legislation could result in possible future savings not being realized.

Assumptions:

- Public Chapter 475 of 2019 requires TCAP testing for the 2019-20 school year to be administered in paper format; it also authorizes the Commissioner of DOE to determine the format for TCAP tests administered in the 2020-21 school year.
- The current vendor contract with DOE includes costs that are required for the development and administration of the TCAP exam regardless of the testing platform (paper or online).
- The development, set-up, and technical support costs are unchanged by the number of students taking the online exam or how many paper tests are printed.
- Based on the current vendor contract, the cost of creating the tests is \$10,788,462. Additionally, administering the test in a paper only format will result in expenditures of approximately \$5,522,106 and administering the test in online only format will result in expenditures of approximately \$3,747,558. The annual funding allocations are sufficient to cover costs of both paper and online formats.
- Passage of this legislation will not have a significant fiscal impact unless the Commissioner of DOE chooses to administer an online only format and one or more LEAs choose to administer a paper format, or the Commissioner chooses a mix of paper and online formats but one or more LEAs choose to administer a paper format instead of

an online format. In those instances, the state will be prevented from realizing a reduction of expenditures in an amount up to \$1,774,548 (\$5,522,106 paper only - \$3,747,558 online only).

- Due to a number of unknown factors, including future decisions made by the Commissioner of DOE and LEAs, the timing of such decisions, and the structure of future procured contracts, an exact fiscal impact is unknown.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/alh